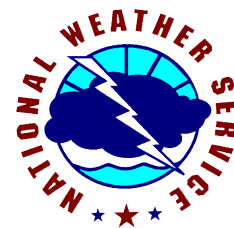




STORMSPOTTER

A Newsletter for Volunteer Storm Spotters and Weather Watchers



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WICHITA, KS

OCTOBER 15, 2001

A Look Back at the 2001 Severe Weather Season

by Phil Hysell - *Lead Meteorologist*

The National Weather Service in Wichita was a busy place to be this severe weather season. Through the end of September we issued over 400 severe thunderstorm, tornado, and flash flood warnings. In addition, we have logged nearly 850 reports of large hail, damaging winds, tornadoes, and flash flooding.

It all began on a Saturday afternoon on February 24th, when nickel size hail fell in Wellington, KS. Initially, it appeared this severe weather season was going to be a quiet one, as only six severe thunderstorm warnings were issued for the entire month of March. However, April brought several days of destructive weather to the region. On the 6th of April, widespread damaging wind gusts of over 60 miles per hour swept across central and south central Kansas. In Russell, a 98 mile per hour wind gust was measured at the airport. During the day of April 11th, there were no thunderstorms to be found as mostly sunny skies prevailed. Still, 750,000 dollars in damage occurred across central and south central Kansas as an unusually strong area of low pressure, brought prolonged wind gusts reaching 65 miles per hour. This caused several buildings to be completely unroofed. In addition, two people were injured. One injury resulted from a tractor-

trailer blowing over in Wichita, and another injury occurred just west of Augusta where a man was blown from his tractor.

The first tornado of the season touched down on April 14th four miles north of Norwich in Kingman county. One week later, April 21st, the largest and most devastating tornado of the year occurred in our area. At 915 PM, a tornado formed just southwest of Hoisington. This tornado rapidly intensified as it entered the west side of town, reaching F4 status



Hoisington, KS

(winds estimated to be 207 to 260 miles per hour). One 69 year-old man was killed when a minivan fell on him, and 28 others were injured. Damage was estimated to be 43 million dollars as 182 homes and 12 businesses were completely destroyed.

The active weather continued in May, as 120 reports of severe weather were noted. One of the most active days in May was on the 20th, when two weak

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tornadoes touched town in Russell and Barton counties, and other in Sedgwick county. No injuries or damage occurred.

The beginning of June brought a seemingly endless string of days of severe weather to our area. From June 1st through June 5th, almost 150 reports of hail, wind, tornadoes and flash floods were taken by the National Weather Service. On June 3rd, six small tornadoes touched down in Harper and Kingman counties. Fortunately, all these tornadoes occurred in open country. Two sheds were destroyed and siding was stripped from a house in southern Harvey county, on June 5th, when an F0 tornado struck. A line of damaging winds, estimated to reach between 70 and 80 miles per hour, caused considerable damage and injured two people near Yates Center on June 14th. These winds, lifted a couple into the air and they were knocked unconscious by blown debris.

Hot and dry weather in early July brought a respite to the severe weather, until July 25th. On this day, damaging winds affected much of the area. In Hutchinson, there was extensive tree damage. A barn, along with power lines were blown down. Daming winds returned to much of central Kansas on August 23rd, when 70 mile per hour winds brought power outages to much of Lindsborg. On the next day, August 24th, wind gusts over 60 miles per hour were common across much of south central Kansas. Power lines blown down by 70 mile per hour winds in Mt. Hope, caused power outages to around 10,000 homes.

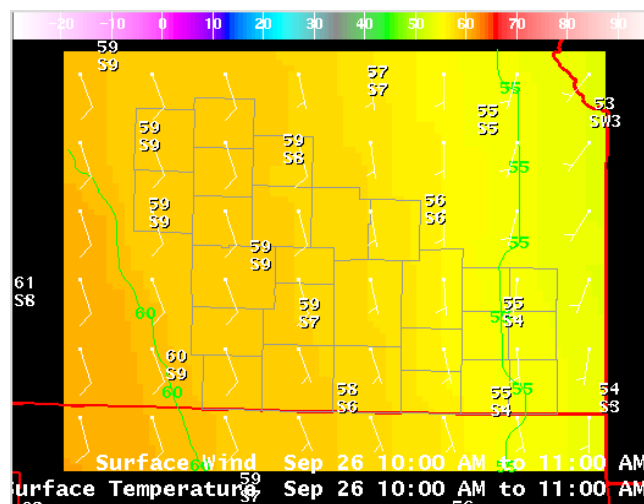
Typically when we turn the calendar to September most of us think about the refreshing cooler autumn air poised to arrive. However, climatology tells us the number of severe weather events in our area begin to increase compared to the late summer months. This was certainly the case in 2001. On September 7th, our office issued 40 severe thunderstorm and tornado warnings to central and south central Kansas. In addition to hail up to the size of tennis balls falling in Wichita, a tornado struck near the town of Assaria. This F1 tornado (wind between 73 and 112 miles per hour) was on the ground for four miles and lasted seven minutes. Some homes and barns sustained significant damage. Thankfully no serious injuries or fatalities occurred.

Graphical Forecasts Are Now Available On Our Web Page

by Hayden Frank - Meteorologist

There are some exciting technological advances taking place at our office. One is the production of graphical forecast on our web page. For years, local National Weather Service Forecast Offices around the country have provided text-based products to their customers. However, the development of the Internet has given us another outlet to communicate our products visually.

Below is an example of what this product looks like. The top number represents the temperature and the bottom number is the wind direction and speed. If we use Wichita as an example, you can see the forecasted temperature is 59 degrees, with a south wind at 7 mph. The green contour represents the forecasted dewpoint. On the bottom of the graphic, you can see the valid time from 10 AM to 11 AM on September 26th.



Some of these products have already been placed on our web page. Currently, you can access graphical wind, temperature, and dewpoint forecasts each hour, through 24 hours. In addition, 7 day forecasts of high and low temperatures are also available. To view these products, just visit: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ict> and click on the IFPS Graphical Forecast Products link.

If you like the graphical products currently on our web page, there is some good news. Many additional fields will eventually become available. Some of which include; precipitation (including type), cloud cover, relative humidity, as well as wind chill and heat index forecasts.

Lets say it's the middle of January and you are on a business trip from Wichita to Salina. An arctic cold front has stalled out in between the two cities. The graphical product would show a huge temperature difference just north of Wichita, as well as depicting the movement of the front each hour.

2001-2002 Winter Outlook

By Chad Omitt - Meteorologist

The north winds are already blowing and the leaves are falling, so the question many folks are once again asking is, What kind of Winter are we in for this year? If you remember last Winter, you'll probably remember the month of December which was the second coldest on record in Wichita. The month of January and February were closer to seasonal normals but overall last Winter went down in the record books as the 8th coldest and 9th wettest on record in Wichita.

So, what can Kansans expect this year? As was the case last year, there will be no El Nino or La Nina effects on Kansas winter weather. Other more complex ocean and atmospheric currents and their recent trends suggest that this Winter will bring several bouts of unseasonably cold air to the region. However, these cold spells are expected to be tempered by periods of near or above normal temperatures during the second half of the Winter period. As of this writing, the official Winter forecast generated by the Climate Predication Center branch of the National Weather Service for the period December through February calls for near normal temperatures and precipitation for this region of Kansas.

Winter Weather Definitions

By Chad Omitt - Meteorologist

Did you know, severe weather, including tornadoes, can occur at any time of the year. In fact in the state of Kansas, tornadoes have been reported in every month of the year. That said, as we head toward Winter it's not the tornadoes or cloud to ground lightning that will be the biggest threat, as will be the icy roads caused by any variety of severe winter weather. So as we head towards Winter here are some important terms you may hear on television or radio:

Watch: Issued to alert the public to the *possibility* of severe winter weather.

Warning: Issued to alert the public that severe winter weather is *imminent* or *occurring*.

Advisory: Issued to advise the public of *potentially* dangerous winter weather that doesn't meet the requirement of a warning.

Heavy Snow Warning - Accumulations of at least 6 inches in 12 hours and/or at least 8 inches in 24 hours.

Freezing Rain Warning - Ice accumulations of at 1/4 inch with winds at least 15 mph or at least 1/2 inch with lesser wind.

Blizzard Warning - Visibility frequently 1/4 mile or less reduced by snow and/or blowing snow caused by winds of at least 35 mph.

Wind Chill Warning - Wind chill indices colder than 25 degrees below zero for at least 3 hours.

Winter Storm Warning - Any combination of the above by-products is imminent or occurring.

High Wind Warning - Sustained winds at least 40 mph for at least 1 hour or at least 58 mph for any duration.

Snow Advisory - Accumulations of 2 to 5 inches are forecast.

Freezing Rain Advisory - Ice accumulations that cause travel or walking difficulties. *No damage to trees or power lines expected.*

Blowing Snow Advisory - Visibility occasionally reduced to near 1/4 mile caused by winds of 25-34 mph. The term *near blizzard* is sometimes used with winds of 30-34 mph.

Wind Chill Advisory - Wind chill indices of 15 to 25 degrees below zero for at least 3 hours.

Wind Advisory - Sustained winds at least 30 mph for 1 hour or at least 45 mph for any duration.

Dense Fog Advisory - Widespread visibilities of less than 1/4 mile.

An important note on dense fog: *Dense fog can be very dangerous if it occurs with temperatures near or below freezing. Under these conditions, black ice can form quickly! Be very careful when driving or walking as visual detection of this ice is very difficult! Even at temperatures of 32-34 degrees, black ice can form on bridges and overpasses; turning them into skating rinks!*

Short Term Forecast - Another handy product issued by the National Weather Service. When wind chills reach critical levels, extreme temperature codes are employed to further alert the public of potentially dangerous wind chills.

Code White is issued whenever wind chills of zero to 24 below are imminent or occurring. **Code Blue** is issued whenever wind chills of 25 below zero or colder are imminent or occurring.

A NEW WIND CHILL INDEX HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED

by Hayden Frank - Meteorologist

After another summer filled with many days of triple digit readings, its hard to believe that winter is right around the corner. A main danger that comes with the arrival of winter is the wind chill. With this in mind, The National Weather Service will be using a new Wind Chill Temperature Index this year.

Since 1945, both the United States and Canada have used the same Wind Chill Index. This was

measured by how fast the winds could make water freeze at a given temperature, thirty-three feet above the ground. The new index accounts for winds at face level, which gives a better calculation on body heat loss. For example, lets take a temperature of 20 degrees, with a wind speed of 15 mph. The old index would produce a wind chill of 5 degrees below zero, while the new index would yield a reading of 6 above zero. Hence, the new wind chill formula is warmer than its predecessor.

Temperature (°F)

	Calm	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45
5	36	31	25	19	13	7	1	-5	-11	-16	-22	-28	-34	-40	-46	-52	-57	-63	-69
10	34	27	21	15	9	3	-4	-10	-16	-22	-28	-35	-41	-47	-53	-59	-66	-72	-78
15	32	25	19	13	6	0	-7	-13	-19	-26	-32	-39	-45	-51	-58	-64	-71	-77	-84
20	30	24	17	11	4	-2	-9	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42	-48	-55	-61	-68	-74	-81	-88
25	29	23	16	9	3	-4	-11	-17	-24	-31	-37	-44	-51	-58	-64	-71	-78	-84	-91
30	28	22	15	8	1	-5	-12	-19	-26	-33	-39	-46	-53	-60	-67	-73	-80	-87	-94
35	28	21	14	7	0	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-82	-89	-96
40	27	20	13	6	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29	-36	-43	-50	-57	-64	-71	-78	-84	-91	-98
45	26	19	12	5	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-58	-65	-72	-79	-86	-93	-100
50	26	19	12	4	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52	-60	-67	-74	-81	-88	-95	-102
55	25	18	11	4	-3	-11	-18	-25	-32	-39	-46	-54	-61	-68	-75	-82	-89	-96	-103
60	25	17	10	3	-4	-11	-19	-26	-33	-40	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-84	-91	-98	-105

Wind (mph)

The new index will be based on :

- Wind speed calculated at the average height of the human face, about five feet (the human face is most often exposed to the cold).
- An updated heat transfer theory, which factors in heat loss from the body to its surroundings during cold, windy days.
- A consistent standard for skin tissue resistance.
- Clear night sky conditions.
- A lowered calm wind threshold from four miles to three miles.

Wind chill dramatically increases a person's chance of getting frostbite or hypothermia. Therefore, it is encouraged to dress in layers. People lose heat through the head more than anywhere else, so a warm hat is a necessity. Also, make sure you wear gloves and wool socks, which will also substantially prevent heat loss.

Frostbite occurs when the body tissue is damaged from being frozen. It causes a white or pale appearance in the extremities, such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, and or the tip of the nose. It also results in a loss of feeling to the body part affected. If any symptoms are detected, you need to get medical help IMMEDIATELY!! If somehow you are unable to get immediate attention, slowly re-warm the affected areas.

Hypothermia occurs when a person's body temperature falls below 95 degrees. Some early warning signs are uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion. Anyone with these warning signs also needs to seek medical attention IMMEDIATELY!! However, if immediate medical care is not available, there are some things that can be done. Get the person into dry clothing, and wrap them in a warm blanket covering both the head and neck. Do not give the person alcohol, drugs, coffee, or any hot beverages or food; warm broth is better. Warm the body core before the extremities (arms and legs). This is extremely important because warming the extremities first will drive cold blood to the heart, which can cause a heart attack.

Measuring Snowfall and Snow Depth

By Leon Wasinger *Hydrometeorological Technician*

When it comes to accurately and consistently measuring snow, perfection will never be obtained. Snow is simply too dynamic. One can improve his or her snow measuring skills by understanding what a proper snowfall measurement requires. The accuracy in measuring snow requires the following.

1. Understanding the difference between snowfall and snow depth.
2. Knowing when to measure the snowfall and snow depth.
3. Having a proper location to measure the snow accumulation.
4. Using proper equipment.
5. Measuring the liquid content of snow.

Snowfall is the snow that has fallen from the sky, new snow, and has collected on the ground with no melting, evaporation or rain occurring to change its

character. This measurement is reported in inches and tenths (8.5 inches).

Snow depth is how much snow is remaining, on the ground, at any given time. This measurement shows how fast the snow is disappearing or melting. People who report this measurement report it once a day until the snow is gone or less than a half inch. This reading is reported to the nearest whole inch. (5 inches)

Note: Snowfall (new snow) becomes part of the total snow depth (old snow) once it has been measured and recorded.

The National Weather Service has cooperative observers all over the nation. They report precipitation, snowfall and snow depth readings every 24 hours around 7 in the morning. Accurate snowfall measurements are not easy to obtain because of the many variables that may occur, like a warm ground, wind, temperature and mixed precipitation. Measuring snow just after the event will help limit the time it has to melt. One can also take a measurement before he or she goes to work, clear that spot and take another reading at noon time or after work, clear that spot, and measure again before bed, but limit it to no more than 4 readings in one day. Add these together for a snowfall total.

Snow depth will be how much snow is left on the ground at observation time, generally 7 AM for cooperative observers.

Location is very important for an accurate snow measurement. Wind moves the falling snow at an angle and on the ground drifts the snow. Sidewalks and driveways retain the sun's heat and melts snow. A proper location needs to be away from buildings, sidewalks and driveways. An area that allows the snow to fall in a uniform depth with limited drifting, like a open back yard or field with wind breaks at a distance. A ratio of 1 to 2 should be used for buildings and trees. For instance, if a building is 20 feet high, then the snow measuring location should be about 40 feet from the building. If a tree is 50 feet high you should be about 100 feet from the tree. An open wind swept field is not a good location. Not everyone has a perfect area, so, pick an area that comes closest to working for you.

To measure snow, a yard stick works fine. Measure three locations, a high point, a low and a mid point. Add them together divide by three.

The liquid content of snow can be found by taking a core sample, melting the sample and measuring it. You will need a can with straight sides, like a coffee can, how wide the can is does not matter.

The can needs to be at least as deep as the snow depth is. Lets say you measured 6 inches of snow, Take your yard stick and find a spot that has a 6 inch depth. Take your can and push it into the snow, pull it out, and with your hand, scoop the remainder of the snow into the can to make a complete snow core sample. Next melt the sample to a liquid. Measure the sample with a ruler. Cooperative observers have a special can and measuring stick to do this, but the idea still works the same.

Cooperative Observer Award Ceremonies

by Gloria Dill - *Administrative Assistant*

Here are the Length-of-Service Awards given this summer and fall:

June 11 - Leon Wasinger presented a 20-Year Award to Observer Priscilla Rivers in providing Precipitation data for the Grenola 1N area.

July 17 - Observer Kenneth Stone accepted a 20-Year Award from Leon Wasinger for providing Precipitation readings for Cherryvale 5S area.

Observer, Jessica Kohr, will be receiving a 10-Year Award from Michael (Joe) Rosner for providing precipitation data for the Elmdale 1SW area.

Michael (Joe) Rosner will also be awarding Observer G. Robert Watkins a 15-Year Award for providing Precipitation readings for the Wonsevu area.

Observer Meryl Knapp of Rock, Kansas, will be presented a 25-Year Award from Leon Wasinger for providing Precipitation data. In October 2000, Mrs. Knapp was presented the prestigious John Companius Holm Award for her outstanding contribution to the National Weather Service.

The National Weather Service would like to thank these dedicated individuals, along with all the Cooperative Observers, who have volunteered their time in providing us with climatic data (Precipitation, Temperature, and River Readings).

Personnel Changes at Your National Weather Service Office

by Dick Elder - *Meteorologist-In-Charge*

The change of seasons has always been fascinating to me. Just think, 6 months ago we were still talking about how cold our winter had been and anticipating our severe weather season. Then we had not one, but two severe weather seasons, that were separated by a very warm and dry summer. Now that we are into fall, it gives us a time to reflect on what has been and what is to come.

As I think about what has been, I want to thank each of you for the support you gave us as we work together to save lives and property from severe weather. As you will see in Phil Hysell's article, which gives a review of this severe weather season, it has been a busy one. In all, you observed nearly 850 severe weather events. Those observations were vital pieces of information in the 427 warnings that our office issued. Thank you for your dedication relaying what you saw. That information is so very important.

As I think about what is to come, like you I wonder what this winter will be like. Be sure to check out Chad Omitt's article and see what the current thinking is with regard to our upcoming winter season. I also know that for the Wichita Weather Office, what is to come are new staff members.

Before the new staff members came we had to said good-bye to others. Two of our forecasters took positions with the NWS in our Kansas City offices. They were Greg Noonan and Noelle Runyan. Another of our forecasters, Mike Urban, took a computer support position here in our office. For all of these folks, the jobs they took were great career moves and we wish them the best. As for the new faces, we have three new meteorologists and two that we promoted. They are Jim Caruso, Hayden Frank, Rob Cox, Robb Lawson and Chris Jakub.



Climatology Outlook

by Mark Wilson - *Hydrometeorological Technician*

A Look Back July-September 2001

Location	Month	Average Temp	Departure from Normal	Total Precip	Departure from Normal	Highest Temp (Date)	Lowest Temp (Date)
Salina	July	86.2	+5.3	1.92	-1.92	109 (22 nd)	64 (14 th)
	Aug	81.3	+2.3	2.91	-.37	104 (1 st)	58 (19 th)
	Sep	69.5	-.3	3.20	+.12	94 (2 ⁿ /4 th)	42 (25 th)
Wichita	July	86.3	+4.9	1.24	-1.89	107 (22 nd)	67 (1 st /14 th)
	Aug	82.7	+3.4	1.90	-1.12	106 (20 th)	61 (16 th)
	Sep	70.0	-.3	3.10	-.39	94 (4 th)	44 (25 th)
Chanute	July	82.6	+2.9	3.61	-1.15	101 (22 nd /23 rd)	63 (1 st)
	Aug	80.1	+2	1.13	-2.80	102 (9 th)	51 (19 th)
	Sep	68.5	-1.4	7.07	+2.66	94 (4 th)	38 (25 th)

Normal High/Low Temperatures

Location	Oct 31	Nov 22	Dec 25	Jan 1
Salina	62/40	51/29	42/22	37/18
Wichita	63/40	52/31	41/21	40/20
Chanute	64/44	54/32	42/22	41/22

Have you ever heard “This winter is expected to be near normal”, and then wondered what the heck is normal anyway? Well in this context, a “climatic normal” is simply the arithmetic average of the values over a 30-year period. For example: if you were to sit down and add 30 years worth of high temperature data for a given location, and then average the values, you would end up with the climatic normal (and possibly a headache).

Average Monthly High and Low Temperatures and Precipitation

(Please Note: The yearly precipitation amount is the total precipitation for the year, not the average monthly total.)

Salina	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
Average High	38.7	44.7	54.9	66.6	76	87	92.8	90.9	81.7	69.9	53.7	42.6	66.6
Average Low	17.2	22.3	31.6	42.7	53.4	63.7	68.9	67.2	57.8	45.5	31.9	22.3	43.7
Wichita	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
Average High	39.8	45.9	57.2	68.3	76.9	86.8	92.8	90.7	81.4	70.6	55.3	43	67.4
Average Low	19.2	23.7	33.6	44.5	54.3	64.6	69.9	67.9	59.2	46.6	33.9	23	45
Average Precipitation	.79	.96	2.43	2.38	3.81	4.31	3.13	3.02	3.49	2.22	1.59	1.20	29.33
Chanute	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
Average High	40.5	46.8	56.6	68.2	76.7	85.4	90.8	89.7	81.4	70.8	53.8	43.3	67
Average Low	20.3	25.5	34	45	55.2	64.2	68.5	66.5	58.4	46.9	35.9	25.2	45.5

NWS WICHITA OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

by Gloria Dill - *Administrative Assistant*

The Wichita office has participated in many outreach activities to the community since January 2001. Some of these included:

1. Gave talks to 23 schools with 700 attending plus a talk to the Kansas Junior Academy of Science banquet at Wichita State University attended by 80-100 people.
2. Talked to 18 business groups totaling 570 people. In addition, we held a Tornado Symposium to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Wichita/Andover Tornado where 150 attended.
3. Attended two career fairs at High Schools, a Sports and Safety Clinic (40-50), Kids Weather Safety Day (150), Safe Families Day (200-250), Sedgwick County Storm Fair, and Severe Weather Safety Fair.
4. Participated in the College Fair/Expo at the Wichita Area Technical College (400-500), Walnut River Water Festival (70), and Regional and State Science Olympiad along

with mentoring students in helping them prepare for Science Olympiad.

5. Mentored and shadowed 5 students along with mentoring teachers for a Data-Streme Program where teachers can enroll in a 3-hour graduate course. Also assisted Girl and Boy Scout troops on a Weather badge along with having a booth at the Boy scout Show to assist on the Weather badge.
6. Have provided numerous information to citizens, students, and teachers on weather safety along with career information on Meteorology and other careers in NOAA.
7. Participated in all Central Region sponsored events such as our Rediscovering America with a Diversity Culture theme, Martin Luther King Scholar Program (one-day shadow program for minority students), Take Your Child to Work Day for employees, and the summer Student Volunteer Program, mentioned in No. 8 below.
8. This summer, we had seven student volunteers along with one paid summer employee. Pete Wolf, our Science and Operations Officer, coordinated this program along with Gloria Dill. The paid employee was Holly Kreutzer from

Washington University at St. Louis, Missouri. The volunteers were Katie Bay (Country Cornerstone Home School, Wichita), Jenna Gross (Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Wichita), Eric Johnston (Wichita High School South), Sarah Jones (University of Oklahoma, Norman), Hannah Lytle (Goddard High School, Goddard), Courtney Powers (Heights High School, Wichita), and Joshua White (Hutchinson Community College, Hutchinson).

The volunteers assisted the forecasters with many of their duties along with helping out with numerous special projects. They also gained insight into what a career in the National Weather Service would encompass. To show our gratitude for all their hard work, the office had a pizza party and the volunteers were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation, and invited to return again next summer.

IMPORTANT !!!

The NWS would like to emphasize the importance of your hazardous weather report. Your report may be the sole basis that a severe thunderstorm or tornado warning may be issued. We at the NWS can continuously monitor radar imagery, satellite imagery, and the hourly surface conditions to give us a good idea of exactly what mother nature may be producing. However, you are our eyes in the field. You are able to tell us exactly what is happening at your location. This information is crucial, as it may help in saving the lives of those upstream from where you live. Wouldn't you want your neighbor looking out for you? I would hope so.

Therefore, I encourage you to call in your hazardous weather reports with the toll free number provided on the last page of the newsletter. One can never assume that we already know what is happening.

FREE RAIN GAGE !!!!

The NWS will have a drawing for a free rain gage. All you have to do is answer four questions correctly and send them back to the NWS by November 15, 2001. We will then draw for the winner and mail them a NWS precipitation reporting rain gage.

1. What is the circumference of the largest hail stone to fall in the United States?
2. Provide the date and location of the tornado that caused the most fatalities in Kansas.
3. What is the number 1 hazardous weather killer?
4. Do you want to continue being a hazardous weather spotter for the NWS?

Please send your answers to:

Rain Gage Contest

2142 S. Tyler Rd.

Wichita, KS 67209

StormSpotter is a semi-annual publication for volunteer weather watchers and cooperative observers in central, south central and southeast Kansas.
Address comments to:

StormSpotter Newsletter
National Weather Service
2142 S. Tyler Rd.
Wichita, KS 67209-3016

Phil Hysell.....Editor

National Weather Service Wichita, KS
Reporting Criteria

Location and Time of Event:

Where did the event occur?

Start time and if possible, duration of Event

Types of Events to Report:

Tornadoes - location, movement, and damage

Wind - 50 mph or greater (wrist size branches broken off; trees and/or power lines down)

Hail - 1/2" or greater (marble/dime-size or larger)

Flooding - rivers or creeks about to go out of their banks or water over roads

Rainfall - 1" an hour or more

Snowfall - Snow depth of 4" or more from a single storm
- snowfall rate of 1" or more per hour

Icing - ANY ice accumulation... or ice related damage.

For general weather information, call (316) 942-3102 Monday - Friday from 8 am - 4 pm except for national holidays. Visit us on the Web at <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ict>

National Weather Service
2142 South Tyler Rd.
Wichita, KS 67209

First Class Mail